

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

MANUEL MARTINEZ

§

VS.

§

CIVIL ACTION NO.: 22-cv-1020

WAL-MART STORES TEXAS, LLC

§

JURY DEMANDED

DEFENDANT'S NOTICE OF REMOVAL

Defendant, Wal-Mart Stores Texas, LLC files this Notice of Removal pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441, as follows:

Commencement and Service

1. On August 16, 2022, Plaintiff, Manuel Martinez commenced this action against Wal-Mart Stores Texas, LLC by filing Plaintiff's Original Petition in the 224th District Court of Bexar County, Texas, Cause No. 2022CI15676; *Manuel Martinez vs. Wal-Mart Stores Texas, LLC*. A copy of Plaintiff's Original Petition is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. Wal-Mart Stores Texas, LLC received service of process and Plaintiff's Original Petition on August 19, 2022. A copy of the Affidavit of Service is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.
2. On September 8, 2022, Wal-Mart Stores Texas, LLC filed its Answer and Affirmative Defenses to Plaintiff's Original Petition and Jury Demand which is attached as **Exhibit C**.
3. This notice of removal is filed within thirty days (30) of the receipt of the Plaintiff's Original Petition which discloses that this matter involves an amount in controversy that or which exceeds \$75,000.00 and is timely filed under 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b). This notice of removal is filed within one year of the commencement of this action and is thus timely pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b).

Grounds for Removal

4. Wal-Mart Stores Texas, LLC is entitled to remove the state court action to this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332, 1441, and 1446 because this action is a civil action involving an amount in controversy exceeding \$75,000.00 between parties with diverse citizenship. (See **Exhibit A, Plaintiff's Original Petition at paragraph 3., wherein Plaintiff pleads that he “...seeks monetary relief over \$250,000 but not more than \$1,00,000...”**

Diversity of Citizenship

5. This is an action between parties with diversity of citizenship.

6. Plaintiff is a citizen of Texas.

7. Defendant Wal-Mart Stores Texas, LLC is a limited liability company formed under the laws of Delaware, with its principal place of business in Arkansas. The citizenship of an LLC is the same as the citizenship of all of its members. *Harvey v. Grey Wolf Drilling, Co.*, 542 F.3d 1077, 1080 (5th Cir. 2008). The sole member of Wal-Mart Stores Texas, LLC is Wal-Mart Real Estate Business Trust. Wal-Mart Real Estate Business Trust is a Delaware statutory trust with its principal place of business in Arkansas. The citizenship of a statutory trust is the citizenship of its members, which includes its shareholders. *Americold Realty Tr. v. Conagra Foods, Inc.*, 136 S. Ct. 1012, 1016 (2016); *Bynane v. Bank of New York Mellon for CWMBS, Inc. Asset-Backed Certificates Series 2006-24*, 866 F.3d 351, 358 (5th Cir. 2017); *U.S. Bank Tr., N.A. v. Dupre*, 615CV0558LEKTWD, 2016 WL 5107123, at *4 (N.D.N.Y. Sept. 20, 2016) (finding that a Delaware statutory trust “seems precisely like the type [of trust] considered by the Supreme Court in *Americold*”). The sole unit/shareholder of Wal-Mart Real Estate Business Trust is Wal-Mart Property Co. Wal-Mart Property Co. is a corporation formed under the laws of the State of Delaware with its principal place of business in the State of Arkansas. A corporation is “a citizen

of every State and foreign state by which it has been incorporated and of the State or foreign state where it has its principal place of business.”” *MidCap Media Fin., L.L.C. v. Pathway Data, Inc.*, 929 F.3d 310, 314 (5th Cir. 2019) (quoting 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(1)). Therefore, Wal-Mart Property Co. is a citizen of Delaware and Arkansas. Accordingly, Defendant Wal-Mart Stores Texas, LLC is a citizen of Delaware and Arkansas.

8. No change of citizenship has occurred since commencement of the state court action. Therefore, diversity of citizenship exists among the parties.

Amount in Controversy

9. The amount in controversy exceeds the sum of \$75,000. (See Exhibit A, Plaintiff’s Original Petition at paragraph 3.).

Venue

10. Venue lies in the Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441(a) and 1446(a) because the Plaintiff filed the state court action in this judicial district and division.

Notice

11. Contemporaneous with the filing of this notice of removal, Defendant will give notice of this filing to all parties of record pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d). Defendant will also file with the clerk of the state court and will serve upon Plaintiff’s counsel and all other parties’ counsel of record, a notice of the filing of this notice of removal.

Jury Demand

12. Defendant, Wal-Mart Stores Texas, LLC demanded a jury trial in the state court action.

State Court Pleadings

13. Copies of state court pleadings which are referenced within the Notice are attached to this Notice of Removal as **Exhibits A through C**. This case is being removed from the 224th Judicial District Court of Bexar County, Texas.

Exhibits to Notice of Removal

14. The following documents are attached to this Notice as correspondingly lettered exhibits:

- A. Plaintiff's Original Petition.
- B. Affidavit of Service.
- C. Defendant's Answer and Affirmative Defenses to Plaintiff's Original Petition and Jury Demand.
- D. Civil Process Request.
- E. Citation.
- F. Case Summary.
- G. List of Counsel of Record.

WHEREFORE, Defendant, Wal-Mart Stores Texas, LLC pursuant to the statutes cited herein and in conformity with the requirements set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1446, removes this action from the 224th Judicial District Court of Bexar County, Texas.

Respectfully submitted,

DAW & RAY
A LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP

/s/ James K. Floyd
James K. Floyd; SBN: 24047628
Email: jfloyd@dawray.com
Elizabeth W. Yancy; SBN: 24098642
Email: eyancy@dawray.com
14100 San Pedro, Suite 302
San Antonio, Texas 78232
(210) 224-3121 Telephone
(210) 224-3188 Facsimile
**ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT,
WAL-MART STORES TEXAS, LLC**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned does hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing instrument has been served upon all known counsel of record in accordance with the FRCP on this the 16th day of September, 2022.

Kiernan McAlpine
Daspit Law Firm
440 Louisiana Street, Suite 1400
Houston, Texas 77002
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

Via Priority Mail

/s/ James K. Floyd
James K. Floyd